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Temperature measurement of laser heated metals in highly oxidizing environment using 2D single-band and spectral pyrometry

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Calibration and validation of two temperature measurement techniques both using optical pyrometry, usable in the framework of the study of the heated metals in highly oxidizing environments and more generally during laser processing of materials in the range of 2000–4000 K have been done. The 2D single-band pyrometry technique using a fast camera provides 2D temperature measurement, whereas spectral pyrometry uses a spectrometer analyzing the spectra emitted by a spot on the observed surface, with uncertainties calculated to be, respectively, within $\pm 3\%$ and 6% of the temperature. Both techniques have been used simultaneously for temperature measurement of laser heated V, Nb, Ta, and W rods under argon and to measure the temperature of steel and iron rods during combustion under oxygen. Results obtained with both techniques are very similar and within the error bars of each other when emissivity remains constant. Moreover, spectral pyrometry has proved to be able to provide correct measurement of temperature, even with unexpected variations of the emissivity during the observed process, and to give a relevant value of this emissivity. A validation of a COMSOL numerical model of the heating cycle of W, Ta, Nb, V rods has been obtained by comparison with the measurement. © 2012 Laser Institute of America.

Key words: temperature measurement, emissivity, metal combustion, laser heating

I. INTRODUCTION

The knowledge of temperature distribution in materials during a thermal process is of prime importance. It allows to determine the heating/cooling rates and thermal gradients that are needed to understand materials properties and behavior. In numerous applications, the very high temperatures involved prevent any possibility of measuring the temperature by direct contact approaches. For such cases, methods that use thermal emission represent an appropriate alternative as they are nonintrusive and allow measurement in harsh conditions. Nowadays, they are routinely used, for instance, in the metallurgical industry, crystallography, and in the laser materials processing.^{1–3} Unfortunately, standard pyrometer techniques fail to provide accurate results mainly because of the lack of knowledge about emissivity of materials and its dependence on wavelength and temperature.

Although this source of error can be significant in some situations, it is generally underestimated, if not totally neglected.⁴ This is especially true when one deals with the interaction of lasers with metals under an oxidizing atmosphere. The changes of phase and the appearance of metal oxides produced by the reactions preclude any reliable

interpretation of the measured signals in the absence of data on emissivity for the main metal oxides at ambient pressure and above the melting point.

Two approaches are currently in use to circumvent this difficulty. The first one consists in using a known value of emissivity at one wavelength, or the ratio of two known values at two different wavelengths, and to assume that it does not vary with temperature. Proceeding this way has obvious limitations because such an assumption is rarely verified in practice and can lead to important measuring errors. To the best of our knowledge, this is the only approach that has been used in the study of metals combustion (see, for instance, Refs. 5–9). The second approach is to record the spectrally resolved thermal emission in the visible range and to assume some dependence of the emissivity with the wavelength. By using appropriate algorithms, it is, in principle, possible to discriminate between the variations of the thermal emission due to temperature from those resulting from the emissivity. Several examples of successful application of this method have been reported in the scientific literature.^{10–14} Yet, it has never been exploited to provide quantitative information on the emissivity when it is applied to laser materials interaction processes.

The purpose of this work is to show that a combination of both above-mentioned methods can provide valuable and

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complementary data for the processes occurring during laser heating of metals in a highly oxidizing atmosphere. To this end, both techniques were used, taking advantage of each of them to obtain simultaneous spatially and time-resolved temperature measurements as well as an evaluation of the emissivity: first, a fast camera provides a 2D cartography of the temperature (2D single-band pyrometry), and second, a spectrometer acquires spectra emitted by a spot on the sample surface, providing independent and simultaneous measurement of temperature and emissivity.

The paper is organized as follows: In Sec. II, the experimental setup is described. The theoretical background and the procedure used to calibrate each device are presented in Sec. III, along with the interpretation of the results and the evaluation of uncertainties. In Sec. IV, a comparison of the results obtained by the two techniques is presented. It concerns the laser heating of V, Nb, Ta, and W rods in argon atmosphere and the combustion of carbon steel (CS) and pure iron rods in oxygen atmosphere. In Sec. V, a COMSOL Multiphysics simulation of a rod heating cycle is described and compared with corresponding experimental results. Finally, Sec. VI summarizes our conclusions.

II. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

A schematic of the experimental setup is shown in Fig. 1. The metal samples studied were cylindrical rods of 3.2 mm in diameter and 15–25 mm in length. They were successively fixed in a small chuck and partly placed inside a borosilicate glass tube (with an inner diameter of 16 mm), which is transparent to radiation in the wavelength range of 500–1000 nm. Argon or oxygen gas flowed out through the glass tube (at a flow rate of 40 l/min) providing either a gas shielding to prevent oxidation during the samples heating or an oxidizing atmosphere to sustain their combustion.

The metal rod was heated up by a disk laser from Trumpf (model Trudisk 10002) operating at 1030 nm. The laser beam was delivered through an optical fibre with a core diameter of 600 μm , providing a uniform intensity distribution that was

imaged onto the top of the rod by a set of two lenses. The circular beam spot size so obtained was 3 mm in diameter, which ensured a homogeneous heating of the top surface of the rod. A Photron high-speed video camera with complementary metal-oxide semiconductor (CMOS) sensors and a frame rate up to 4 kHz was used for the 2D single-band pyrometry. Two optical filters (short pass 950 nm and long pass 800 nm) were placed in front of camera lens to record only the heating radiation emitted in the 800–950 nm region. Beside these filters, neutral densities were also used to accommodate with low and high thermal radiation intensities. The camera axis was tilted 45° with respect to rod axis. An imaging head with 2 achromatic lenses (with focal length of 65 and 120 mm) also tilted 45° with respect to rod axis, ensured the coupling between heat radiation emitted by a 0.6 mm diameter spot on the sample top surface and an optical fibre with 1 mm core diameter (and a numerical aperture of 0.2) connected to a spectrometer. The spectrometer (Ocean Optics USB2000+) operated in the wavelength range from 200 to 1100 nm, with a recording rate up to 500 Hz and a spectral resolution of approximately 0.9 nm. A He-Ne laser was used to carefully align the optics to the axis of the rod. The camera, the spectrometer, and the laser were triggered by the same signal, ensuring synchronous data acquisition. Time $t = 0$ corresponds to the beginning of the laser pulse.

III. CALIBRATION AND CALCULATION PROCEDURES

A. Theoretical background and data of emissivity from the literature

Figure 2 shows the spectral luminance $L_{\lambda,B}$ of a black body, for some values of temperature, T , versus wavelength, λ , calculated using Planck's law (1),

$$L_{\lambda,B}(\lambda, T) = \frac{2hc^2}{\lambda^5} \frac{1}{\left(\exp\left(\frac{hc}{k_b\lambda T}\right) - 1 \right)}, \quad (1)$$

where h is Planck's constant, c is the speed of light, and k_b is Boltzmann's constant.

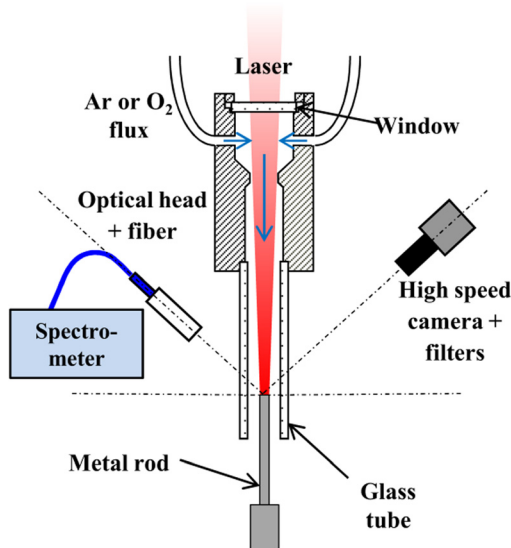


FIG. 1. Schematic of the optical pyrometry experimental setup.

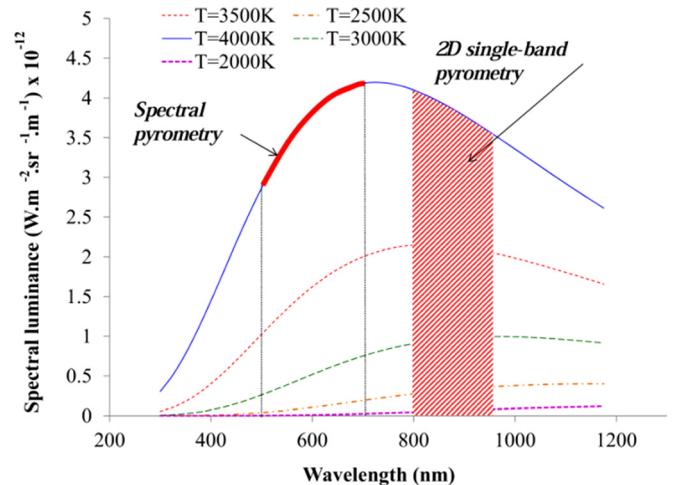


FIG. 2. Typical black body spectral luminance curves for various temperatures depending on wavelength.

The ranges of wavelengths used in each technique are represented in Fig. 2: the spectrometer records spectra, i.e., spectral luminance of the sample surface from 500 to 700 nm, while the high-speed video camera acquires the integrated luminance in the band 800–950 nm, i.e., the spectral luminance integrated from 800 to 950 nm.

For both techniques, the sensors were calibrated using the luminance of V, Nb, Ta, and W at their melting point as a reference. The emissivity against the wavelength for V, Nb, Ta, and W, at their respective melting points (from the literature), are shown in Table I. In this work, the emissivity dependence on wavelength has been approximated by a linear function: $\varepsilon(\lambda, T_{\text{melt}}) = m\lambda + b$, where the parameters m and b for each species are reported in Table I, where T_{melt} is the melting temperature of each species, λ_x is the wavelength of the X-points (defined as the wavelength at which the spectral emissivity does not change with temperature, reported by Price in Ref. 15), $\varepsilon_{IR}(T_{\text{melt}})$ is the averaged emissivity over the 800–950 nm region, calculated from data of the Table I and linearly extrapolated up to 950 and 1030 nm.

B. Spectral pyrometry

The technique of spectral pyrometry used here takes into account the dependence of the emissivity on wavelength (assumed to be linear) and its variation through temperature changes. The temperature is deduced from the spectra acquired by the spectrometer using a suited algorithm that discriminates the part of the variations of the spectral luminance due to an emissivity variation with the wavelength from that due to a temperature change. Independent and simultaneous measurement of both temperature and emissivity are obtained but at a rate limited to 500 Hz and may give a good accuracy on the temperature, despite a poor knowledge of the emissivity of the sample or unexpected variations of emissivity.

The sensitivity of the spectrometer varies substantially in the 200–1100 nm range, as a result of the wide variation in sensitivity of the CCD sensors and the transmission factor of the optical components and the optical fibre. An appropriate calibration must thus be done.

For this purpose, the luminance of V, Nb, Ta, and W at their melting point, are taken as references. A calibration factor $\eta(\lambda)$ defining the sensitivity of the spectrometer for each wavelength (in counts $\text{W}^{-1} \text{m}^2 \text{sr m}$) has been determined using emissivity data given in Table I,

$$\eta(\lambda) = \frac{I(t_{\text{resol}}, \lambda)}{\varepsilon(\lambda, T_{\text{melt}}) \cdot L_{\lambda,B}(T_{\text{melt}}, \lambda)}, \quad (2)$$

where I is the response of the spectrometer (in counts) at the time t_{resol} during the resolidification plateau of temperature and $\varepsilon(\lambda, T_{\text{melt}})$ is the emissivity at the melting point versus wavelength.

Figure 3 shows the evolution of I , η and the theoretical spectral luminance of the surface of the rod at the melting point against wavelength. The profile of $\eta(\lambda)$ has a maximum at about 520 nm, with a slower decrease for $\lambda > 520$ nm. The range of measurement has been limited to 500–700 nm to avoid the strong rise between 400 and 500 nm and to ensure a level of η of more than 15% of the peak on the whole range.

Then, the experimental spectral luminance $L_{\lambda,\text{exp}}(\lambda)$ of a sample as a function of the wavelength can be easily obtained from the response I of the spectrometer (in counts) using the following formula:

$$L_{\lambda,\text{exp}}(\lambda) = I(\lambda)/\eta(\lambda). \quad (3)$$

This calibration procedure was carried out separately using the melting point of V, Nb, Ta, or W, with the appropriate emissivity (see Table I), and provided very similar results.

The ratio $L_{\lambda,\text{exp}}(\lambda)/(L_{\lambda,B}(\lambda, T_{\text{melt}}) \cdot \varepsilon(\lambda, T_{\text{melt}}))$ of the experimental luminance thus determined on the expected luminance has been calculated at the melting point of V, Nb, Ta, and W. As shown in Fig. 4, this ratio varies very little on the whole wavelength range (less than 4% of variation for each plot) and the mean ratio of each curve is between 1.01 and 1.055. This shows that the emissivity data of the Table I are consistent and also demonstrates the linearity of the response of the sensors. Such small discrepancies can only have a very weak effect on the determination of the temperature as it will be shown below.

As mentioned above, the experimental spectra depend on the temperature and the emissivity of the sample. The dependence of the luminance on emissivity has been assumed to be linear, but its dependence on temperature is a nonlinear one. It is, therefore, possible to differentiate the variations of $L_{\lambda,\text{exp}}(\lambda)$ due to temperature from those due to emissivity: when the emissivity increases, the curve is multiplied by a linear function of the wavelength, while an increase in temperature leads to a nonlinear increase of the amplitude with wavelength along with a shift of its maximum towards lower wavelengths. Let us define $L_{\text{calc}}(\lambda, m, b, T)$ as the product $(m\lambda + b) \cdot L_{\lambda,B}(\lambda, T_{\text{melt}})$. To find the temperature corresponding to an experimental spectrum, one must thus determine the 3 parameters m , b , and T for which $L_{\text{calc}}(\lambda, m, b, T)$ fits best the experimental luminance.

The fit was performed by using the Levenberg–Marquardt (L–M) nonlinear least squares algorithm,²⁵ providing m , b ,

TABLE I. Parameters m and b of $\varepsilon(\lambda)$ of V, Nb, Ta, and W at their melting points, mean emissivity on the band 800–950 nm, temperature of fusion T_{melt} , and wavelength λ_x of the X-points.

	T_{melt} (K)	λ_x (Ref. 16)	$m \times 10^{-4}$ (nm^{-1})	b	$\varepsilon_{IR}(T_{\text{melt}})$	$\varepsilon_{1030\text{nm}}(T_{\text{melt}})$
V	2199 (Ref. 17)	1430	−0.681 (Ref. 18)	0.387 (Ref. 18)	0.32	0.306
Nb	2749 (Ref. 19)	850	−1.76 (Ref. 20)	0.456 (Ref. 20)	0.31	0.289
Ta	3270 (Ref. 21)	840	−1.72 (Ref. 22)	0.492 (Ref. 22)	0.35	0.325
W	3695 (Ref. 23)	1300	−1.99 (Ref. 24)	0.532 (Ref. 24)	0.37	0.344

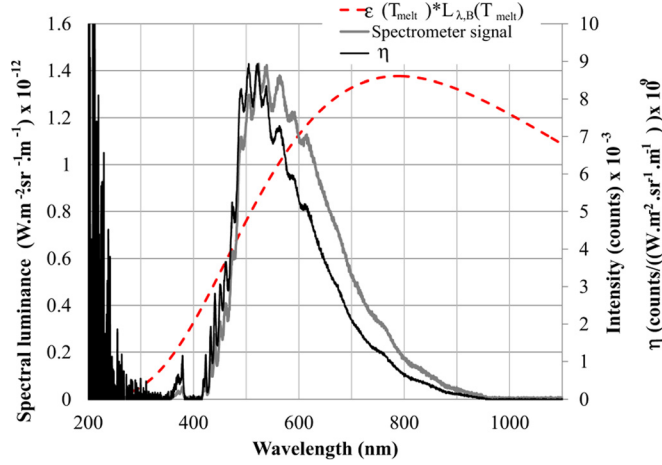


FIG. 3. Theoretical spectral luminance (dashed line) of a tungsten rod at the melting point, intensity measured by the spectrometer (gray plain line), and calibration factor η (black plain line) as a function of the wavelength.

and T values that give the smallest mean square error (MSE) between $L_{\lambda,\text{exp}}(\lambda)$ and $L_{\text{calc}}(\lambda, m, b, T)$ defined as

$$MSE(m, b, T) = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^N (L_{\lambda,\text{exp}}(\lambda_i) - L_{\text{calc}}(\lambda_i, m, b, T))^2}{N}}, \quad (4)$$

where λ_i are the wavelengths sampled by the spectrometer in the 500–700 nm range. The iterative process was interrupted when the relative difference between two consecutive MSEs was less than 10^{-8} .

In order to quantify the quality of the fit, we define a β coefficient that normalizes the MSE with the corresponding experimental luminance at 600 nm, allowing thus the comparison of the quality for different experimental spectra,

$$\beta(m, b, T) = \frac{MSE(m, b, T)}{L_{\lambda,\text{exp}}(600 \text{ nm})}. \quad (5)$$

Moreover, spectra leading to β coefficients greater than 0.1 were considered too noisy and, therefore, discarded.

The algorithm applied to the luminance of V, Nb, Ta, and W at their melting points showed that for initial values m , b , and T reasonably near from the expected values

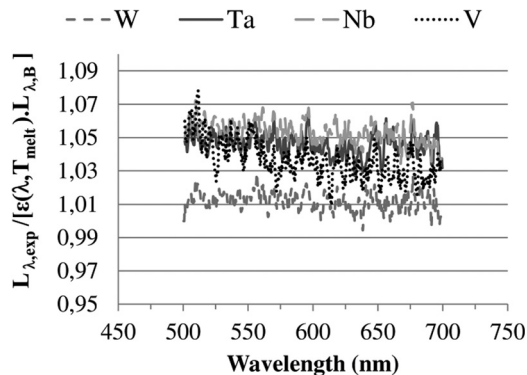


FIG. 4. Ratio of the experimental spectral luminance of W, Ta, Nb, and V at their melting points to the expected luminance calculated from literature data of emissivity and Planck's law.

($\pm 50\%$), the best values m , b , and T were successfully determined by the L–M algorithm, whatever combinations of initial m , b , and T were chosen.

Extra cares were necessary in the case of totally unknown values of m and b , as in the case of the combustion of pure iron in oxygen. To check the convergence of the L–M algorithm to the best solution and to be sure that a secondary minimum would not lead to erroneous results, in the case of initial values of m , b , and T far from that of the best fit, β was calculated for all the possible combinations of m , b , and T in a wide selected range. Results show that, in the (m, b, T) -space, there is only one zone where β is minimal. More precise results have been obtained by taking smaller and smaller ranges of m , b , and T around the minimum of β .

Figure 5 shows the evolution of the minimal β for different combinations of T and b . Only is represented on the figure the minimal value of β for each combination of b and T , and the best corresponding m is represented in color on the surface graph. This graph shows that, even for a quite large range of b and T , β has only one minimum.

1. Uncertainty analysis

Figure 6(a) shows the theoretical luminance of tungsten depending on the wavelength calculated from Eq. (1) (without noise) and the corresponding experimental luminance obtained from the spectrometer (with noise). The minimal β coefficients as a function of the parameters b and T for the two cases (with and without noise) are represented as two surfaces in Fig. 6(b).

Figure 6(b) shows the evolution of the minimal β calculated for different combinations of b and T . It can be seen from the results that the spectra with and without noise lead to identical surfaces, except near the minimum of β . This minimum corresponds in both cases to the same combination of b and T , but is much lower without noise (0.001) than with noise (0.02). These results show that the detector noise, close to a “white noise,” is not really a source of uncertainty, because it does not change the determination of m , b , and T corresponding to the minimum of β . The difference between the temperatures determined by the algorithm with and without noise is smaller than 1 K.

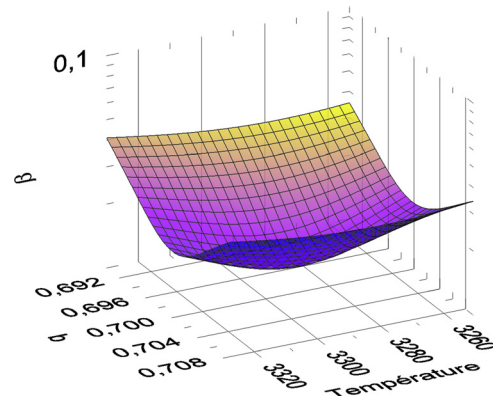


FIG. 5. Minimal β depending on parameters b and T . The colors represent the value of m giving the smallest β (dark: lower values of m , m ranging from -6.18×10^{-4} to 13.6×10^{-4}).

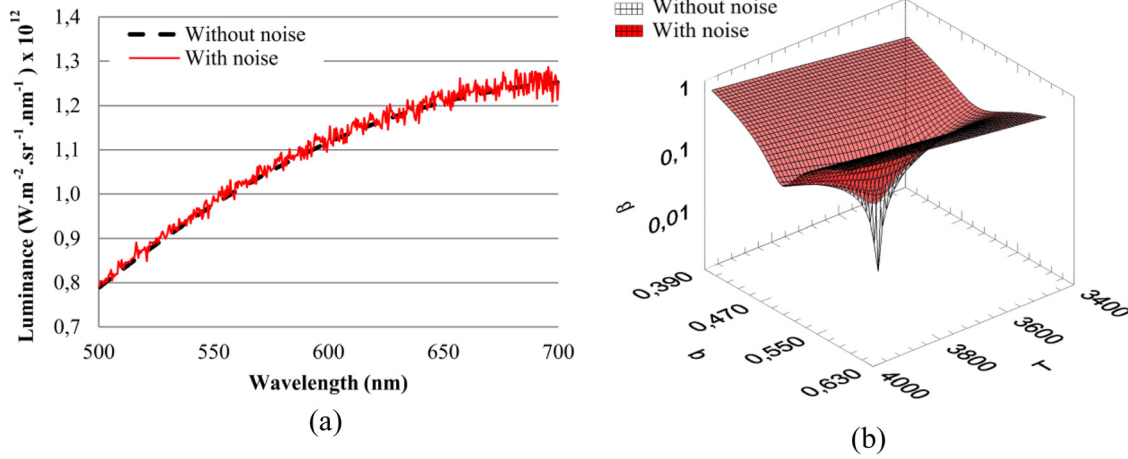


FIG. 6. (a) Spectra of W at the melting point with and without noise. (b) 3D graph of minimal β depending on b and T in the case of theoretical and experimental spectrum of W at the melting point.

The main source of uncertainty lies in the calibration process. Indeed, calibration of the spectrometer was performed using the experimental spectrum of W at its melting point, which is given by the spectrum of a blackbody at T_{melt} multiplied by the emissivity of tungsten $\varepsilon(\lambda, T_{\text{melt}}) = m_{\text{melt}} \cdot \lambda + b_{\text{melt}}$ (see Table I). There are three sources of error: Δm_{melt} , Δb_{melt} , and ΔT_{melt} , which are the uncertainties on the values of m_{melt} , b_{melt} , and T_{melt} , respectively, taken for the calculation of the spectral luminance of the blackbody at T_{melt} and $\varepsilon(\lambda, T_{\text{melt}})$.

The uncertainties on m_{melt} , b_{melt} , and T_{melt} were found to be smaller than 20%, 10%, and 10 K considering the data from different authors mentioned in Refs. 23 and 24. The effect of a possible error on m_{melt} , b_{melt} , and T_{melt} for the calibration on each of the three parameters determined by the L–M algorithm is reported in Table II. The two last columns give an upper bound of the relative uncertainties on T , $\varepsilon_{\text{mean}}$, m , and b , determined from two experimental spectra of tungsten at approximately 2400 and 3900 K. These estimations were obtained by adding the relative uncertainties on each parameters m_{melt} , b_{melt} , and T_{melt} . It can be seen from these results that a variation in b_{melt} or m_{melt} used for the calibration leads to important variations of the values of m and to a minor extent of those of b , but even after adding these uncertainties, the variations of the calculated temperature T were always within a range of 3% (53 and 66 K at 2400 and 3900 K, respectively).

The results of Table II also show that, considering the uncertainty in the value of m_{melt} and b_{melt} taken for the cali-

bration, it would be inappropriate to try to accurately determine the absolute values of m and b from the experimental spectra. However, the mean value of the emissivity $\varepsilon_{\text{mean}}$ in the 500–700 nm range can be obtained by the formula $\varepsilon_{\text{mean}} = m \cdot 600 \text{ nm} + b$ with an uncertainty of 25%–12% for a temperature ranging from 2400 to 3900 K.

C. 2D single-band pyrometry

For the 2D single-band pyrometry technique set up, a fast camera, equipped with an optical band-pass filter in the range from 800 to 950 nm, was used. After calibration of the sensors, the camera provides 2D cartography of thermal radiation of the sample surface integrated in the band of wavelengths at frame rates up to 4 kHz. Calculations based on Planck’s law allow the conversion of grey-level of each pixel to temperature, but this technique requires an *a priori* knowledge of the mean emissivity of the target within the appropriate wavelength range and the need to assume that it does not vary much with the temperature. This assumption is reasonable in the case of V, Nb, Ta, and W, because the considered spectral region is near the wavelength of the X-points (see in Table I).

In this case, the camera is sensitive to the integrated luminance of the sample on the 800–950 nm band (called “integrated luminance”). The theoretical integrated luminance $L_B(T)$ (W m⁻² sr⁻¹) of the black body on the 800–950 nm range is given by integration of Planck’s law on the band 800–950 nm,

TABLE II. Maximum deviations δm , δb , and δT (in %) of m , b , and T resulting from variations $\Delta m_{\text{melt}}/m_{\text{melt}}$, $\Delta b_{\text{melt}}/b_{\text{melt}}$, and ΔT_{melt} of, respectively, $\pm 20\%$, $\pm 10\%$, and ± 10 K around the values taken from Refs. 23 and 24.

	$\Delta m_{\text{melt}}/m$ ($\pm 20\%$)		$\Delta b_{\text{melt}}/b$ ($\pm 10\%$)		ΔT_{melt} (± 10 K)		Total (%)	
	2400 K	3900 K	2400 K	3900 K	2400 K	3900 K	2400 K	3900 K
$\delta T/T$ (%)	1.0	0.4	0.7	1.1	0.6	0.3	2.2	1.7
$\delta \varepsilon_{\text{mean}}/\varepsilon_{\text{mean}}$	9.6	2.4	10.5	9.1	5.3	0.2	25.3	11.8
$\delta m/m$ (%)	35.6	8.1	46.0	22.5	30.8	0.9	112.0	31.6
$\Delta b/b$ (%)	11.9	0.5	5.7	3.8	9.3	0.4	26.8	4.7

$$L_B(T) = \int_{800 \text{ nm}}^{950 \text{ nm}} L_{\lambda,B}(\lambda, T) d\lambda. \quad (6)$$

The previous expression can be simplified by observing that the following expression is very well verified on the 2000–5000 K temperature range:

$$L_B(T) = \int_{800 \text{ nm}}^{950 \text{ nm}} L_{\lambda,B}(\lambda) \cdot d\lambda = c_0 \cdot L_{875 \text{ nm},B}. \quad (7)$$

Moreover, the integrated luminance L_R of the real sample is given by the formula

$$L_R(T) = \varepsilon_{IR}(T) \cdot L_B(T), \quad (8)$$

where ε_{IR} is the mean emissivity on the 800–950 nm band.

The variable X is defined by

$$X = L_R(T) \cdot \tau \cdot 10^{-D}, \quad (9)$$

where τ is the integrating time of the camera (s) and D is the logarithmic coefficient of the neutral density placed in front of the camera.

The linearity of the response of the sensors of the high-speed camera was verified by monitoring the brightness of a diffusing target (with BaSO_4 coating) illuminated with linearly increasing laser pulses. One can thus deduce that there exists a relation between N_g and X such that

$$N_g = k \cdot X + d, \quad (10)$$

where N_g is the grey-level (on 8 bits), k is an optical efficiency factor, and d is a constant.

For each metal, the top of the rod is monitored using the camera in the 800–950 nm range during laser heating and the cooling that follows. The parameters of irradiation (power and pulse duration) were chosen such that the top of the rod was totally melted, but the thickness of the melt being very small to keep a flat surface.

Figure 7 shows N_g versus X obtained from the luminance of the melting point of the different metals, for different combinations of τ and D . This was done in order to get points evenly spread in the whole range of the sensor. The absolute uncertainty on the determination of N_g is estimated

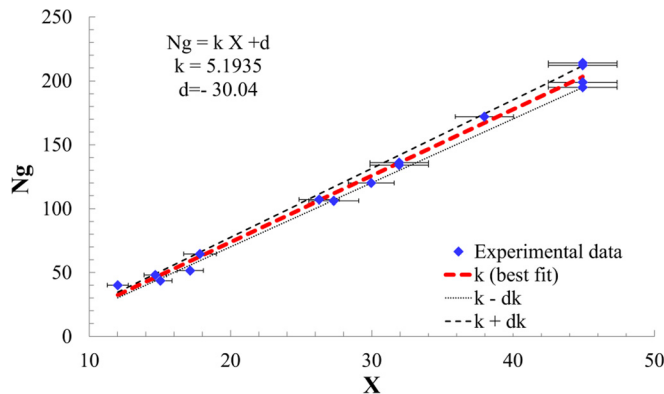


FIG. 7. Scattered plot of the grey-level depending on X for the different melting points and various parameters of the camera (τ and D) and best fit by the least square method.

to be equal to ± 2 , and the relative uncertainty on mean emissivity $d\varepsilon/\varepsilon$ at the melting point taken from Refs. 18, 20, 22, and 24 was equal to ± 0.02 .

Figure 8(a) shows typical pictures obtained with the fast video camera in the case of the heating and cooling of a tungsten rod. A small discontinuity in the emissivity at the phase change induces a slight change in the brightness of the rod, indicating when the centre of the rod starts to melt, as well as when it solidifies. During the resolidification, a plateau in the temperature due to the latent heat of fusion is seen. It was more difficult to detect during the melting because of the simultaneous laser heating. Consequently, it is the resolidification plateau that was used for the determination of luminance reference, at the melting point for each metal.

The slope $k = 5.1935$ and the intercept $d = -30.04$ of the best fitting line were determined using the method of the least squares while accounting for the uncertainty on X and N_g .²⁶ The negative value of d means that the sensors have an illumination threshold below which no light is detected.

A relation between T and the luminance of the black body at the same temperature than that of the real sample L_B is obtained from the combination of Eqs. (1) and (7),

$$L_B(T) = C_1(\exp(C_2/T) - 1)^{-1}, \quad (11)$$

with $C_1 = 2c_0hc^2\lambda_0^{-5}$, $C_2 = hc/(k_b\lambda_0)$, and $\lambda_0 = 875$ nm.

The combination of Eqs. (8)–(10) leads to the following formula for L_B :

$$L_B = (N_g - d)/(k\varepsilon_{IR}\tau 10^{-D}). \quad (12)$$

One can then obtain T from the experimental parameters by combining Eqs. (11) and (12),

$$T = C_2 \cdot \ln^{-1} \left(\frac{C_1 k \varepsilon_{IR} \tau 10^{-D}}{N_g - d} + 1 \right). \quad (13)$$

1. Uncertainty analysis

There are three sources of uncertainty in the temperature: from k , ε_{IR} , and N_g . The relative uncertainty dk/k is calculated²⁶ to be equal to 0.036; dN_g was taken to be equal to 2 and $d\varepsilon_{IR}/\varepsilon_{IR}$ to 0.05 in the case of W, Ta, Nb, V, and metal combustion, in order to take into account possible variations of ε_{IR} with the temperature.

Considering the linear relation between L_B , N_g , ε_{IR} , and k , the final relative uncertainty on the luminance of the black body at the same temperature than that of the real sample is given by

$$|dL_B/L_B| = |dN_g/(N_g - d)| + |dk'/k'| + |d\varepsilon_{IR}/\varepsilon_{IR}|. \quad (14)$$

Equation (11) being monotonic, one can simply infer the uncertainty ($2 \cdot dT$) in T using the equation

$$2 \cdot dT = |T(L_B + dL_B) - T(L_B - dL_B)|. \quad (15)$$

For the tungsten rods at 3700 K and niobium rods at 2600 K, dT was found to be of 75 and 60 K, respectively.

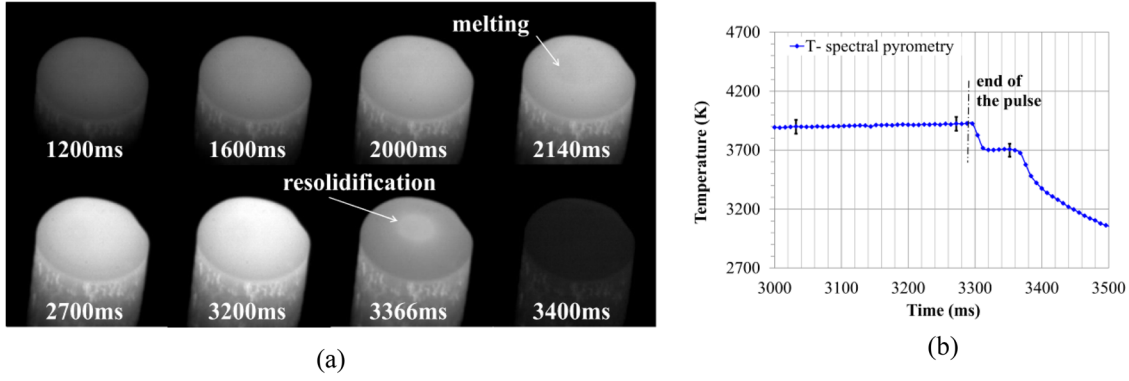


FIG. 8. (a) Temporal evolution of thermal radiation of laser heated tungsten rod (1 kW–3.3 s) observed with the fast video camera. (b) Temperature evolution around solidification determined with the spectral pyrometry technique.

IV. RESULTS

A. Temperatures of V, Nb, Ta, W during laser heating cycles

Figure 8(a) shows the pictures of a tungsten rod during the laser heating and the cooling process. A slight discontinuity can be detected during the melting and the resolidification of the rod. Figure 8(b) shows the temperature evolution with the characteristic plateau of solidification during the cooling.

Figures 9(a) and 9(b) show the temporal evolution of the temperature during the heating and cooling cycle of a tungsten rod and a niobium rod. The shaded zones correspond to the zone of discarded measures of the spectrometer, that is, when β greater than 0.1. The temperatures determined by both methods are very similar and the difference ΔT between them does not exceed 100 K at approximately 3920 K, and 60 K at 2600 K (a difference of less than 3%).

B. Temperatures and mean emissivity of iron and steel during combustion process

In the case of combustion, the emissivity may vary from one measurement to another, and the surface has not a homo-

geneous temperature anymore as in the case of laser heating under argon.

Both techniques of temperature measurement described above were applied to the combustion process of a CS S355 (0.2% of C) and a pure iron (more than 99.99% Fe) rod. The emissivity of the observed zone taken in the case of 2D single-band pyrometry was 0.7.

Figures 10(a) and 10(b) show images from the combustion process of a CS and a pure iron rod in an oxygen atmosphere (at ambient pressure) ignited by laser. The heating leads to the melting of the surface of the rod. As soon as the liquid is formed on the top, the temperature increases very sharply, due to the combustion process that takes place in the melt. Then, at $t = 100$ ms, a violent ebullition of the metal and oxide melt in the case of the CS rod is observed, whereas in the case of iron no ebullition is noticed.

In the steelmaking process metallurgy, melted iron FeO is known to react with carbon in a bath containing melted steel, leading to the formation of CO and CO₂. This phenomenon, called decarburization, is suspected to be responsible for the violent ebullition of the iron and iron oxide melt during the combustion process of CS.²⁷

The temporal evolution of temperature of the centre of top of the rod determined by both techniques and emissivity

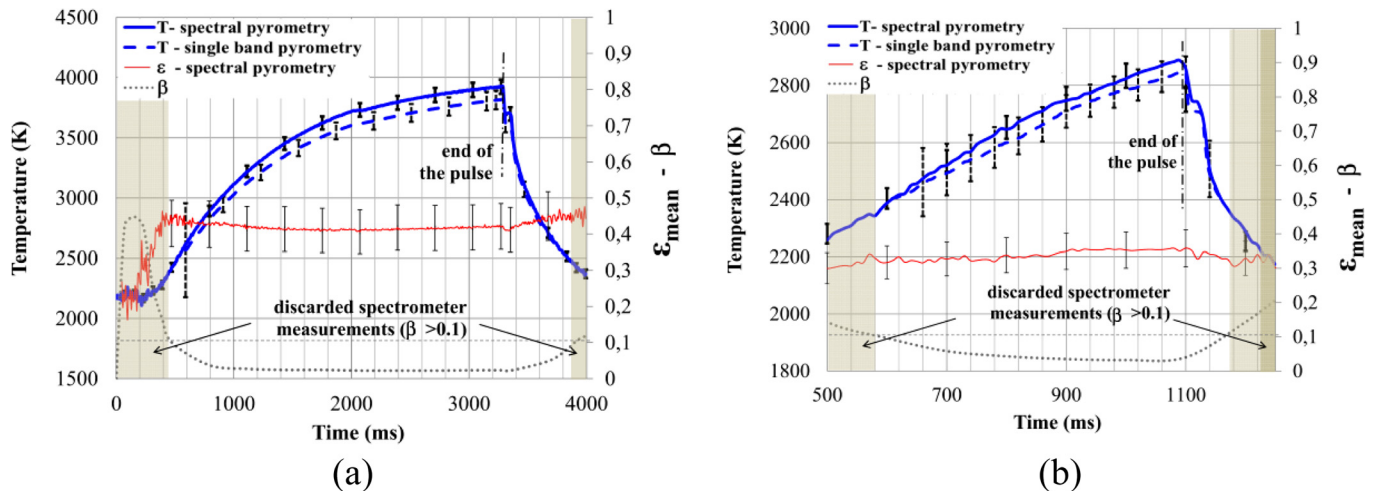


FIG. 9. Temporal evolution of the temperature through laser heating and cooling, determined by both techniques, and evaluation of the mean emissivity ϵ by the polychromatic technique (a) for W (1 kW–3.3 s) and (b) for Nb (1 kW–1.1 s).

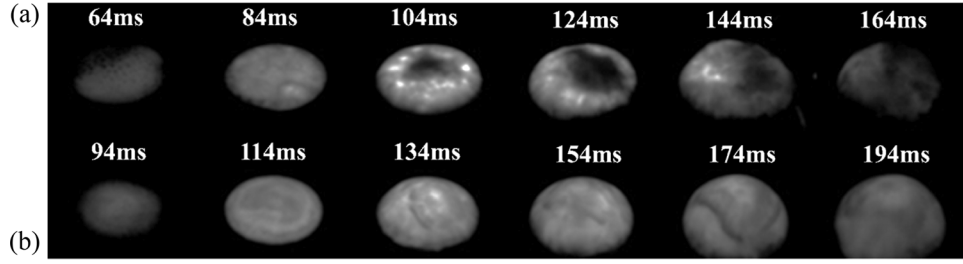


FIG. 10. Combustion of a rod under oxygen atmosphere: (a) carbon steel and (b) pure iron.

through the combustion process are represented in Fig. 11. The graphs can be divided in 3 main regions. In region I, temperature is increasing up to approximately 3100 K for both rods, with a roughly constant emissivity of 0.7. In the region II, temperature reaches a plateau for a pure iron rod with unchanged brightness of the sample, but decreases slightly for CS along with a strong decrease of the mean emissivity. For iron, the two techniques give the same results in the region II and the mean emissivity measured with spectral pyrometry remains quite constant. On the other hand, in the case of CS combustion, a strong discrepancy between the temperatures obtained by spectral or single-band pyrometry is observed, coinciding with the apparition of a “black area.”

After the end of the laser pulse (region III), the surface temperature decreases in both cases and the emissivity remains stable at 0.65–0.7 for both samples.

This black area visible on the film of CS combustion from $t = 100$ to $t = 160$ ms may be due to a decrease of the emissivity or a decrease of the temperature of this zone. Yet, the emissivity determined by spectral pyrometry shows a strong decrease when this black area appears, along with a smaller decrease of the temperature. Indeed, the bubbles of CO formed by decarburization explode violently, exposing at the surface less oxidized iron, whose emissivity (around 0.45) is closer to that of melted nonoxidized iron: 0.39 [at 1890 K (Ref. 28)], in which temperature is smaller

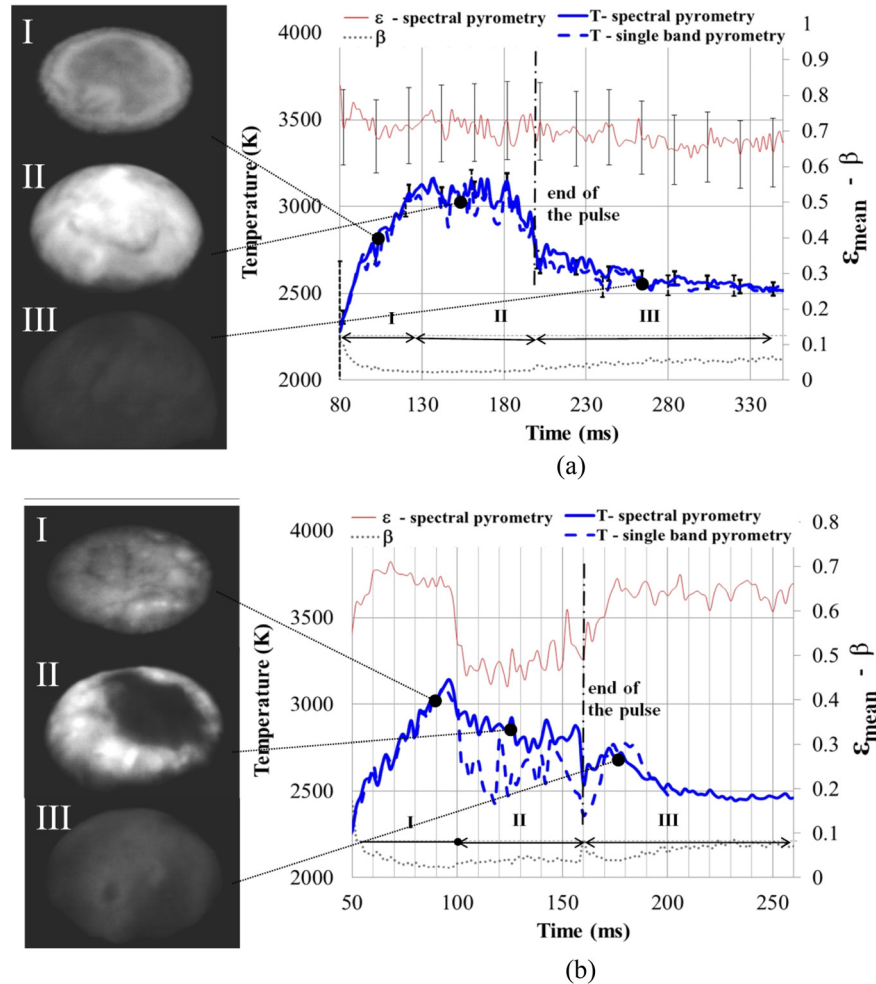


FIG. 11. Temporal evolution of the temperature through combustion by both optical pyrometry techniques and evaluation of the mean emissivity ϵ_{mean} by the polychromatic technique (a) of a pure iron rod (laser: 0.64 kW–0.19 s) (b) of a carbon steel rod (laser: 0.64 kW–0.16 s).

than that of the surface exposed to laser heating. The β coefficient remains low between $t=100$ and $t=160$ ms, even during this variation of emissivity, supporting the fact that the experimental spectra are well fitted by the L-M algorithm and that the smaller emissivity detected by the spectral pyrometry technique is not a by-product of the algorithm.

Predictably, the single-band pyrometry technique gives erroneous measurements during the apparition of the black area, because it does not take into account the change of emissivity of the observed zone and, thus, considers a decrease of the brightness as a decrease of the temperature.

In this particular configuration, spectral pyrometry technique proves able to detect and even roughly quantify a strong variation of the emissivity occurring during the combustion process, and takes into account this variation to give a correct evaluation of the temperature.

V. COMPARISON OF THE RESULTS WITH A COMSOL SIMULATION

A. Description of the model

A COMSOL Multiphysics model with only heat transfer module of the heating of a rod by laser and under argon has been made.

In order to check the validity of the model, absorptivity and temperature measurements of V, Ta, Nb, and W rods have been performed and compared to simulations.

As showed in Fig. 12, the rod is represented as a rectangle of $(D/2) \times 250$ mm in size, where D is the diameter of the rod delimited by the axis of symmetry on one vertical side, and insulated walls elsewhere.

The transient temperature distribution $T(r, z, t)$ is obtained from the resolution of the heat conduction equation in the rod,

$$\rho \cdot c_{p\text{-eff}} \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \vec{\nabla} \cdot (k_{th} \cdot \vec{\nabla} T), \quad (16)$$

where k_{th} is thermal conductivity ($\text{W m}^{-1} \text{K}^{-1}$), ρ is density (kg m^{-3}), t is time (s), T is temperature (K), and $c_{p\text{-eff}}$ is the effective specific heat capacity ($\text{J kg}^{-1} \text{K}^{-1}$), where the latent heat of fusion L_f (J kg^{-1}) (see Table III) is taken into account as an increase of the specific heat capacity value around the temperature of fusion. Thus, this effective specific heat capacity can be described by the following equation:

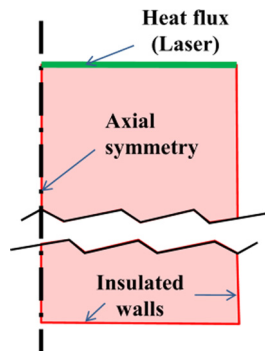


FIG. 12. Description of the boundary conditions of the COMSOL model.

TABLE III. References of the thermophysical properties used in the simulation.

	c_p ($\text{J kg}^{-1} \text{K}^{-1}$)	k_{th} ($\text{W m}^{-1} \text{K}^{-1}$)	ρ (kg m^3)	L_f (kJ kg^{-1})
V	Ref. 29	Ref. 30	Refs. 31–33	410 (Ref. 34)
Nb	Ref. 30	Ref. 30	Refs. 32, 35, and 37	285 (Ref. 36)
Ta	Ref. 29	Ref. 30	Refs. 38 and 39	172 (Ref. 40)
W	Refs. 19 and 41	Ref. 30	Refs. 39, 42, and 43	193 (Ref. 44)

$$c_{p\text{-eff}}(T) = L_f \cdot D_{\text{exp}}(T) + c_p(T), \text{ with}$$

$$D(T) = \exp \left[- \left(\frac{T - T_{\text{melt}}}{\Delta T_0} \right)^2 \right] / (\Delta T_0 \cdot \sqrt{\pi}), \quad (17)$$

where ΔT_0 is the temperature interval on which the effect of latent heat exchange is numerically introduced (typically ΔT_0 of about 100 K was used for the present simulations) and c_p is the specific heat capacity of the metal.

A heat source q_0 (W m^{-2}) with homogeneous intensity stands for the laser irradiating the top of the rod,

$$q_0 = A \cdot P / S, \quad (18)$$

where A is the absorptivity coefficient of the sample, P the power of the laser (W), and S the surface of the top of the rod (m^2). The absorptivity A of the sample at 1030 nm has been taken equal to its emissivity at 1030 nm (Table I), using Kirchhoff's law, and considered to be constant through the heating process to that of its melting point.

The validity of this model is limited to solid phase configuration, but given the geometry of the rod, approaching a one-dimensional configuration, it has been extended to the beginning of the melting of the top of the rod: as the melted layer thickness is not exceeding approximately 1 mm, convective flows in the melt due to Marangoni effect are avoided.

The thermophysical properties of V, Nb, Ta, and W depending on temperature have been taken from various articles. The references are reported in Table III.

Thermal losses and the laser heating at the walls are taken into account by introducing the following boundaries conditions:

$$-\vec{n} \cdot (-k_{th} \vec{\nabla} T) = h_{\text{conv}}(T_{\text{inf}} - T) \quad \text{for the side and bottom walls,} \quad (19)$$

$$-\vec{n} \cdot (-k_{th} \vec{\nabla} T) = q_0 + h_{\text{conv}}(T_{\text{inf}} - T) \quad \text{for the upper wall,} \quad (20)$$

where \vec{n} is unity vector normal to the surface, h_{conv} is the heat convection coefficient, and T_{inf} is the temperature outside the rod. In our model, h_{conv} has been taken to be equal to 100.

B. Results

The results of the computations are presented in Fig. 13, along with the experimental data obtained with our spectral

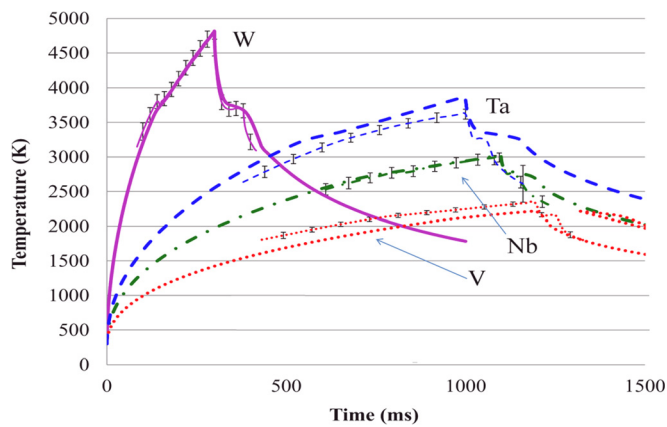


FIG. 13. Experimental temporal evolution of the temperature from the spectral pyrometry measurements, and corresponding calculations using COMSOL simulation, for the following laser irradiations: W: 3 kW–0.3 s, Ta: 1 kW–1.2 s, Nb: 1 kW–1.1 s, V: 640 W–1.2 s.

pyrometry device. These results show good agreement between measurements and calculations. The cooling temperature plateau is not perfectly reproduced by the simulation, but the thermal losses were very roughly determined in the model, and possible source of losses might have been neglected.

VI. CONCLUSION

This work allowed to setup and to validate two independent and complementary temperature measurement techniques both based on optical pyrometry, particularly adapted to high temperatures, in a wide range of values, spatially and time-resolved and usable in harsh conditions. The use of these techniques would be particularly valuable in all laser-processing techniques, whenever unexpected changes of the emissivity, being due to oxidation or even to a possible change in the geometry of the observed zone (welding, metal deposition laser process, cutting, etc.) could occur.

The calibrations processes, based on the use of the luminance of pure materials at their melting point, and the calculation procedure were explained. The relevance of the calibration technique has been shown, and an analysis of the uncertainty has been done. A comparison between the measurements obtained by the two techniques has been made, for different species and ranges of temperature, and a good agreement was found. Both techniques give temperature measurement with accuracy from approximately $\pm 3\%$ (spectral pyrometry) to $\pm 5\%$ (single-band pyrometry) depending on the range of temperature. The results of each technique are always in the uncertainty bars of that of the other.

The 2D single-band pyrometry technique provides a control of the geometry of the sample and allows high rate of measurement, valuable in the case of very quick changes in the temperature. The integrated luminance of the sample in a 150 nm-wide band of wavelength and a good sensitivity of the camera offer the possibility to choose a small averaging time and thus to obtain very good temporal resolution of the measurements. The use of a fixed range of wavelengths offers the advantage of avoiding concerns about dependence of ε from λ . This technique requires, however, a previous

good knowledge of the emissivity in this range and is inappropriate in the case of abrupt changes in emissivity.

In the spectral pyrometry technique, the emissivity depending on the wavelength is unknown, but assumed to be linear. This allowed, using the L–M algorithm, on one hand to determine precisely the temperature and on the second hand to give a good evaluation of the relative mean emissivity of the sample on the range of 500–700 nm. Results showed that unexpected emissivity of the sample or abrupt variations of the emissivity would not impair the measurement of the temperature, contrarily to the single-band pyrometry technique.

The validation of a 2D axis-symmetrical COMSOL model with heat transfer module and thermophysical data for each species taken from the literature has been obtained by comparison with temperature measurements made at the surface of V, Nb, Ta, and W rods under argon. The calculated surface temperatures are very close to the corresponding measurements. Such model could be used as well in the case of a surface during its oxidation, by modifying the absorptivity of the surface through the process, or in the case of combustion, by adding an extra volumic heat source corresponding to release inside the melt due to oxidation.

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